

# MARCH OF THE NEWS.

FRONT PAGE OF THE WEEK®

## A MILLION NEW NEGRO VOTERS?



President Johnson, at the Capitol, signs the new voting-rights bill for Negroes

President Johnson signed the voting-rights bill for Negroes on Friday, August 6, and immediately set the vast machinery of the U. S. Government into motion to enforce the new law.

On Saturday, August 7, the U. S. Department of Justice certified the States where racial discrimination in voting is officially declared to exist.

Justice Department officials worked through the week-end, choosing the key "hard core" counties and rushing federal examiners into those counties to start registering Negro voters on Tuesday, August 10.

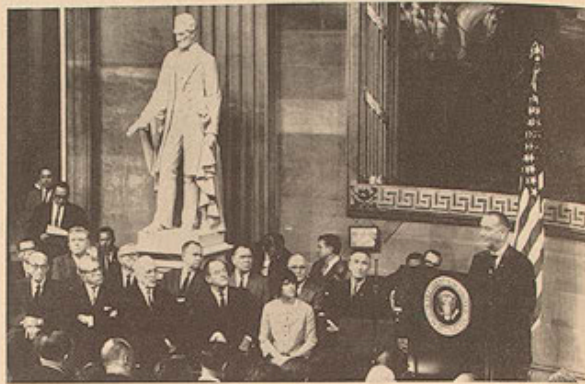
**Dr. King looks ahead.** The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., leader of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, watched Mr. Johnson sign the bill. Dr. King predicted that, by September 1, nearly a million Negroes will be added to the South's voting rolls.

This would virtually double the number of Negroes now registered to vote in the seven Southern States that are most affected by the new law. Those States are: Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Virginia, and parts of North Carolina.

Speaking in the Capitol rotunda, Mr. Johnson told what the new law does:

"This law covers many pages. But the heart of the Act is plain. Wherever—by clear and objective standards—States and counties are using regulations or laws or tests to deny the right to vote, then they will be struck down.

"If it is clear that State officials still intend to discriminate, then federal examiners will be sent in to register all eligible voters. When the prospect of discrimination is gone, the examiners will be immediately withdrawn.



"Let me now say to every Negro in this country: You must register. You must vote. . . . It is a challenge which cannot be met simply by protests and demonstrations."

"And, under this Act, if any county anywhere in this nation does not want federal intervention, it need only open its polling places to all of its people."

The bill's signing took place in the same room of the Capitol where Abraham Lincoln—104 years earlier, to the day—signed a bill freeing slaves who were being used by the Confederate States to help wage the Civil War.

As Mr. Johnson signed, the Justice Department was ready with regulations and application forms for use by 75 specially trained federal examiners.

The Department announced the following procedure for registering voters:

"A citizen interested in applying for listing as an eligible voter may go to the office of the examiner, obtain an application and fill it out there. If he

needs help, the examiner will assist. Where an applicant cannot read or write, the examiner will examine him and record the pertinent information on the form.

"Where the applicant meets the requirements, the examiner will give him a certificate of eligibility to vote. . . .

"In States which still require the payment of a poll tax, the examiner will accept payment and give the applicant a receipt."

Only four States—Alabama, Mississippi, Texas and Virginia—now require poll-tax payments for voting eligibility. The requirement applies only to State and local elections—not federal.

**Test cases under way.** The new Act instructs the Justice Department to test the constitutionality of the poll tax as a voting condition. The Attorney General began immediately, on August 7, to file the necessary legal suits.

President Johnson warned Negroes that the new law, to be effective, "must be used." He said: "Let me now say to every Negro in this country: You must register. You must vote. You must learn, so your choices advance your interest and the interest of our beloved nation. Your future and your children's future depend upon it—and I don't believe that you're going to let them down.

"This Act is not only a victory for Negro leadership. This Act is a great challenge to that leadership. It is a challenge which cannot be met simply by protests and demonstrations."

(March of News continued on p. 10)

### INTEGRATION: TOO FAST?

The Gallup Poll asked Americans this question: "Do you think the Johnson Administration is pushing integration too fast, or not fast enough?"

The answers of those questioned, as made public August 6—

- Too fast, 40 per cent.
- Not fast enough, 13 per cent.
- About right, 33 per cent.
- No opinion, 9 per cent.